

Watchdog shocked at environmental exploitation

Longstanding community organisation Coromandel Watchdog of Hauraki oppose any mining activity, including core-sample drilling that has been taking place in high-value conservation land in the Parakiwai Valley near Whangamata.

"We don't care if they say they're getting a 'good nibble' or 'getting [the fish] in the boat'. We don't want them to go 'fishing' at all because mining is not the future of this area," said Coromandel Watchdog coordinator Renee Annan.

Watchdog is shocked at Newmont Gold and Glass Earth Gold's continued justification of their drilling programme labelled 'Wharekirauponga' in the Parakiwai Valley near Whangamata.

The area where they are drillings is high-value conservation land that is habitat to native species, including the evolutionary distinct and

critically endangered Archey's Frog. Despite massive protest against mining activities on conservation land, it is still happening.

"In 2010 overwhelming public opinion showed that New Zealanders do not want mining activity in their fragile conservation estate," said Ms Annan.

"Newmont's exploration of conservation land throughout the Coromandel shows their complete disregard for the value these areas hold for New Zealanders."

"We are also receiving mixed messages about the results of the drilling. How can Coromandel Peninsula communities trust Newmont and Glass Earth when they tell potential investors one thing and us another."

Coromandel Watchdog is committed to opposing ongoing mining threats throughout the peninsula and supporting communities to stand up for their homes said Ms Annan.



A large rimu tree in the vicinity of the Wharekirauponga drilling activity.